

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01505 121756Z

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SUBJECT: MARSHALL ISLANDS LEGISLATURE RESOLUTIONS ON STATUS
NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MARSHALL ISLANDS (MI) NITIJELA
(LEGISLATURE) RESOLUTION NO. 44 DATED MARCH 23, 1976 WHICH
WAS PRESENTED TO THE UN VISITING MISSION (UNVM) AT ITS
MEETING WITH THE NITIJELA ON APRIL 6 IN MAJURO. TONY
DEBRUM, MI DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEMBER
OF THE MI POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (PSC), INFORMED THE
UNVM US ESCORT OFFICER THAT THE WORDING OF OPERATIVE PARA 2,
WHICH AUTHORIZES THE PSC TO REPRESENT THE MI IN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE USG AND "WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS", HAD
BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED TO GIVE THE PSC ADEQUATE LEEWAY IN
THE VENT THAT THE USG REFUSES SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE MARSHALLS. IN RESPONSE TO A DISCUSSION OF THE LIMITATIONS
ON THE MARSHALL ISLANDS' AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH
"REPRESENTATIVEWS OF OTHER NATIONS", DEBRUM CITED THE
\$600,000 LOAN OBTAINED BY THE MI FROM NAUR ASAN EXAMPLE
OF MI'S AUTHORITY AND ABILITY TO ENTER INTO SUCH
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01505 121756Z

NEGOTIATIONS.

2. NITIJELA RESOLUTION NO. 45 INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KUNAR ABNER AND NOT YET ACTED ON BY THE NITIJELA, INFORMS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WISH TO NEGOTIATE A FUTURE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE US AND APART FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA AND DIRECTS THE PSC TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO "TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS LEADING TO A WORKABLE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS" IF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE. AN EXPATRIATE LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OF THE NITIJELA INFORMED THE ESCORT OFFICER THAT THIS BILL STANDS AN EIGHTY PERCENT CHANCE OF PASSAGE IN HIS OPINION.

3. DE BRUM FURTHER INFORMED THE ESCORT OFFICER THAT AN ADDITIONAL BILL CALLING FOR REJECTION OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA IS IN PREPARATION.

4. FURTHER DETAILS OF MARSHALLESE ATTITUDES ON FUTURE STATUS WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.
QUOTE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WITH OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND ITS PEOPLEM

WHEREAS, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WAS CREATED BY DISTRICT LAW 20-34 AND WAS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDYING VARIOJS INTERNAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS IN LIGHT OF THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND ITS PEOPLE AND OF CONDUCTING FORUMS AND HEARINGS THROUGHOUT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO ELICIT CITIZEN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS; AND
WHEREAS, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01505 121756Z

PRESENTED AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE 22N REGULAR SESSION OF THE NITIJELA; AND
WHEREAS, AT THIS, THE 23D REGULAR SESSION OF THE NITIJELA, THE COMMISSION HAS PRESENTED A FURTHER REPORT; AND
WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT HAS INDICATED THAT THERE ARE SEVERE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACT PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED AND NEGOTIATED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION IN ITS REPORTS AND STUDIES HAS INDICATED THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA PREPARED BY THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER, 1975, DISCRIMINATES AGAINST THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, DOES NOT ENSURE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE BETWEEN THE STATES IN THE PROPOSED FEDERATION, DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WITH RESPECT THE FISHING RIGHTS AND LAND LEASE NEGOTIATIONS, AND IF IMPLEMENTED WOULD BE DESTRUCTIVE OF MARSHALLESE CULTURE AND THE MARSHALLESE WAY OF LIFE; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT HAS INDICATED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND WITH THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND OUR SPECIAL NEEDS; AND

WHEREAS, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED BY DISTRICT LAW 20-34 AS AMENDED, TO RECEIVE APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN NEGOTIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS; THEREFORE,

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE THROUGH ITS MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA IN 23D REGULAR SESSION, 1976 THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE A FORM OF FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WHICH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND ITS PEOPLE, PROVIDED THE OUTCOME OF ANY SUCH NEGOTIATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 USUN N 01505 121756Z

SHALL BE SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE AS THE NITIJELA SHALL PROVIDE; AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CERTIFIED COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 1976 U.N. VISITING MISSION, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION.

3/23/76

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